IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 17-32 as set forth below:

17. (New) A communicating method for, in an internetwork system in which a first internetwork apparatus, a second internetwork apparatus and a management apparatus are coupled to a network, communicating between said first internetwork apparatus and said second internetwork apparatus through a transmission medium coupling between said first internetwork apparatus and said second internetwork apparatus, comprising the steps of:

transmitting, in response to a first collection request for statistical information transmitted from said management apparatus, a second collection request for statistical information from said first internetwork apparatus to said second internetwork apparatus;

receiving said second collection request for statistical information in said second internetwork apparatus;

transmitting, in response to said second collection request for statistical information, first statistical information collected within said second internetwork apparatus from said second internetwork apparatus to said first internetwork apparatus; and

receiving said first statistical information in said first internetwork apparatus.

18. (New) A communicating method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting, when a failure occurs in a path between said first internetwork apparatus and said network after said first internetwork apparatus receives said first statistical information, a fourth collection request for statistical information from said second internetwork apparatus to said first internetwork apparatus in response to a third collection request for statistical information from said management apparatus;

receiving said fourth collection request for statistical information in said second internetwork apparatus;

transmitting, in response to said fourth collection request for statistical information, second statistical information collected within said first internetwork apparatus from said first internetwork apparatus to said second internetwork apparatus; and receiving said second statistical information in said second internetwork apparatus.

19. (New) A communicating method according to claim 17, wherein said step of transmitting said second collection request for statistical information includes a substep of transmitting said second collection request for statistical information after collecting third statistical information stored within said first internetwork apparatus.

20. (New) A communicating method according to claim 17, wherein said step of transmitting said first statistical information includes a substep of collecting statistical information stored in a relay unit which is provided in said second internetwork apparatus and transmits/receives a packet to/from said network.

21. (New) A communicating method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

allocating a first address commonly used with said second internetwork apparatus to a first port coupled to said network in said first internetwork apparatus thereby to operate said first internetwork apparatus as a current internetwork apparatus; and

allocating a second address peculiar to a second port which is coupled to said network in said second internetwork apparatus thereby to operate said second internetwork apparatus as a standby internetwork apparatus.

22. (New) A communicating method for communicating between a first router and a second router, said first router having a first port coupled to a network and a first relay unit for relaying a packet received by said first port, and said second router having a second port coupled to said network and a second relay unit for relaying a packet received by said second port, said communicating method comprising the steps of:

receiving, in said first router, a first collection request for statistical information transmitted from a management apparatus coupled to said network;

transmitting a second collection request for statistical information from said first router to said second router in response to said first collection request for statistical information;

receiving said second collection request for statistical information in said second router; and

transmitting, in response to said second collection request for statistical information, first statistical information stored within said second router from said second router to said first router.

23. (New) A communicating method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

allocating a first address commonly used with said second router to said first port in said first router thereby to operate said first port as a current port; and

allocating a second address peculiar to said second port in said second router thereby to operate said second port as a standby port.

24. (New) A communicating method according to claim 23, wherein said step of receiving said first collection request for statistical information includes substeps of:

receiving said first collection request for statistical information transmitted to said first address; and extracting second statistical information which is stored in said first relay unit and relates to packets received and transmitted through said first port.

25. (New) A communicating method according to claim 24, wherein said step of transmitting said second collection request for statistical information includes a substep of transmitting a collection bequest for statistical information relating to said second port acting as a spare port of said first port.

26. (New) A communicating method according to claim 25, wherein said step of transmitting said first statistical information includes a substep of extracting, as said first statistical information, statistical information which is stored in said second relay unit and related to packets received and transmitted through said second port.

27. (New) A communicating method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

receiving said first statistical information in said first router;

obtaining, in said first router, a sum of said first statistical information and said second statistical information thereby to obtain a third statistical information; and

transmitting said third statistical information to said management apparatus from said first router.

28. (New) A communicating method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

in a case where said first port cannot transmit or receive a packet due to a failure, in said second router, recognizing occurrence of the failure;

allocating said first address to said second port; and

receiving, in said second router, a third collection request for statistical information transmitted from said management apparatus to said first address.

29. (New) A communicating method according to claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

extracting, in response to said third collection request for statistical information in said second router, as said first statistical information, statistical information which is stored in said second relay unit and relates to packets received and transmitted through said second port; and transmitting a fourth collection request for statistical information relating to said first port to said first router from said second router.

30. (New) A communicating method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

receiving said fourth collection request for statistical information in said first router;

extracting, in response to said fourth collection request for statistical information in said first router, second statistical information which is stored in said first relay unit and relates to packets received and transmitted through said first port; and

transmitting said second statistical information from said first router to said second router.

31. (New) A communicating method according to claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

receiving said second statistical information in said second router;

obtaining, in said second router, a sum of said first statistical information and said second statistical information thereby to obtain a third statistical information; and

transmitting said third statistical information to said management apparatus from said second router.

32. (New) A method of managing statistical information in a router including a port coupled to a network and a relay unit for relaying a packet received by said port, comprising the steps of:

receiving, in said router, a first collection request for statistical information transmitted from a management apparatus coupled to said network toward an address allocated in advance to said port;

extracting, in response to said first collection request for statistical information, first statistical information which is stored in said relay unit and relates to said port;

transmitting, to another router which is coupled to said network and has a spare port of said port, a second collection request for statistical information relating to said spare port;

receiving, in said router, second statistical information relating to said spare port transmitted from said another router in response to said second collection request for statistical information;

obtaining, in said router, a sum of said first statistical information and said second statistical information thereby to obtain a third statistical information; and

transmitting said third statistical information to said management apparatus from said router.